(d) whether Government propose to provide preferential opportunity to extend investment limit for SSI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The structural reforms initiated by the Government which include, *inter-alia,* opening of the economy internally and externally, have exposed the Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector to greater competition both domestically and globally. At the same time, it has provided greater access to markets, cheaper imported raw materials and technologies. The SSI sector has demonstrated the resilience to withstand the competition as it has recorded a rate of growth which is higher than the overall industrial growth.

(d) and (e) The SSI units prducing items having export potential are given preference for enhancement of investment ceiling in consultation with the stakeholders enabling them to go for technology upgradation and to have competitive edge. With effect from 9th October, 2001, the investment ceiling for hand tools and hosiery items has been raised from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crore.

Sustenance of SSI in Foreign Markets

t901. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Small Scale Industries have not been able to sustain themselves in foreign markets due to fierce competition;

(b) if so, the steps Government are going to take to strengthen them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Indian Small Scale Industries (SSIs) continue to contribute around 35% of the current exports from the country, which indicates their competitiveness in the export markets. The Government has also taken several steps to strengthen the SSI sector and to encourage its exports. These include scheme for assistance on acquiring ISO-9000 certificate, quality awards, export related Entrepreneur Development Programmes and subsidising participation in international fairs/

tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

exhibitions. Besides, as part of the comprehensive Policy package announced for SSI's by the Government on 30.8.2000, steps have been taken to ensure easier access to credit, collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Financial assistance to SSI

909. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance granted to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttaranchal for schemes of small scale industries;

(b) whether Government have sought the progress report regarding utilisation of the funds, district- wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Schemes/ Programmes to promote Small Scale Industries are uniformly applicable to all States/Union Territories. However, under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), States/Union Territories are provided funds for training, entrepreneurial development, contingencies etc. based upon their annual targets.

(b) to (d) The progress reports and utilisation certificates in respect of funds released under the PMRY are regularly furnished by the States/Union Territorries to the Central Government. However, as the district-wise allocation of these funds are made by the State/Union Territories themselves, only a consolidated utilisation certificate is obtained from them.

Economic package for SSI

903. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce any economic package to protect small scale industries functioning at present in the country; and

(b) if so, the detail thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?